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way. The work has advanced far enough to demonstrate that there is very much less malaria now than is usual at this time of the year; the Mexican physicians are unanimous in stating that the amount of *paludismo* is now very small.

The other group of diseases which have been brought under control are the dysenteries and diarrhoeas, and the preventive measures which seem to be directly responsible for the improvement are the following: the suppression of flies and the protection of foodstuffs in the markets by screening; the improvement in the milk-supply, and disinfection and isolation of dysenteric cases. The number of milk-venders in the city is approximately 150, and 200 samples of milk have been examined for dirt, adulteration and the percentage of fat. The milk examinations are made at irregular intervals on unannounced dates, each vender's milk being examined at least quarterly. The measure, however, which seems most directly responsible for the diminution in the number of cases and deaths from intestinal diseases is the antify campaign. The city water has been frequently examined in the laboratory and found uniformly good. No cases of yellow fever have originated in Vera Cruz or been brought to the port.

#### FOREIGN STUDENTS AND THE UNITED STATES

DR. P. P. CLAXTON, United States commissioner of education, has authorized the preparation and publication of a special bulletin describing, for the use of foreign students, the facilities for professional and collegiate study in higher institutions of learning in this country. The bulletin will be printed in several languages. "This is America's opportunity," writes Commissioner Claxton. "Thousands of students who have been attending universities in Europe will be obliged to look elsewhere for higher education, not only this year, but perhaps for years to come. Many foreign students are already coming to us, many more will come as the result, direct and indirect, of present events. We have now a supreme opportunity to demonstrate our capac-

ity for intellectual leadership. Whether the war continues three months or three years, our opportunities and obligations to take the lead in education and civilization will be the same, and America should respond by offering the best opportunity in the world for her own students and for those who may come from other countries. In the case of South America this student migration will be facilitated by the opportune opening of the Panama Canal. Students from the western coast of South America will find it alluringly convenient to go via Canal to educational centers in the United States. Within the last two decades the increase in opportunity for graduate study and research, and for professional and technical education has been very remarkable, much greater than most people even in America realize. The recent raising of standards and the better equipment of medical schools, the large endowments and appropriations for all forms of engineering, the marvelous growth of our colleges of agriculture, the development of colleges and schools of education, and the rapid increase in income of all the better colleges make it possible for this country to take the lead in education in a way that would have been impossible even at the beginning of the century."

#### BOTANISTS OF THE CENTRAL STATES

IN accordance with a vote taken at the Cleveland meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it is determined to reorganize the Botanists of the Central States. A very large majority of the members of the organization, either by letter or by personal statement at the Cleveland meeting, have expressed their desire for a resumption of the meetings of the organization, especially in years in which the Botanical Society of America meets outside of the states which comprise our territory. Since the last meeting of the Botanical Society of America was at Atlanta, and the next meeting is to be at Philadelphia, the present year seems especially favorable for a meeting of the Botanists of the Central States. I am able to announce that we have a very cordial invitation to hold